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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/316,033	05/21/1999	KOUKI HATAKEYAMA	0879-0234P	7274

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EXAMINER

GENCO, BRIAN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

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DATE MAILED: 12/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/316,033

Applicant(s)

HATAKEYAMA, KOUKI

Examiner

Brian C Genco

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,10-12,15-17 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,10-12,15-17 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

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Applicants amendment filed November 20, 2003 has overcome the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 11-13 and 16-18 and the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 15 and 20.

Claims 11, 12, 16 and 17

Applicants arguments with regards to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2, and 10 have been fully considered by the Examiner but are not deemed persuasive.

Applicant argues that since Examiner admitted that Ejima does not disclose nor preclude a master switch for turning on and off the power supply part and a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is on, and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is closed during the suspension of the power supply, then the combination of Ejima and Matsuo does not disclose the limitation either since Matsuo does not disclose a lid and the suspension of power related to opening or closing of the lid.

In response, Examiner notes that through the combination of Ejima and Matsuo all of the claim limitations are disclosed. Ejima discloses a lid and a detector for detecting whether or not the lid is opened, namely element 19 of Figs. 5-9. Matsuo discloses suspending power to the camera when it is detected that a memory card is not present so as to save power. In combining these two teachings one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize to perform the suspension of power to the camera upon detecting that the lid is open in order to save power. This is particularly emphasized when realizing that the opening of the lid is geared toward the extraction of a memory card in the case that one is already present. Examiner notes that the process of writing necessary data to the memory card disclosed by Ejima would be included in the process

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of suspending power of the camera as would be recognized by one skilled in the art. As such, the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 10 stand.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (USPN 5,805,219 to Ejima et al) in view of (USPN 5,179,505 to Matsuo).

In regards to claim 1 Ejima et al, herein Ejima, discloses an electronic camera comprising:

an imaging part for driving an imaging device to capture image data representing an image of a subject (e.g., element 1 of Fig. 4 wherein the claimed imaging part is inherent with all cameras);

an external storage medium interface for writing the image data captured by the imaging part into an external storage medium (e.g., Fig. 2);

a connector for detachably connecting the external storage medium to the external storage medium interface (e.g., Figs. 1, 2, and 4-9);

an external storage medium chamber for receiving the external storage medium connected to the external storage medium interface, the external storage medium chamber having an opening through which the external storage medium is received (e.g., column 2, lines 63-64; Figs. 4-9):

a lid for closing the opening of the external storage medium chamber (e.g., Figs. 4-9);

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a power supply part for supplying power to components of the camera (e.g., element 72 of Fig. 2);

a detector for detecting that the lid is opened and closed (e.g., element 19 of Figs. 5-9; column 4, lines 18-29).

Ejima does not disclose nor preclude a master switch for turning on and off the power supply part or a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is on, and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is closed during the suspension of the power supply.

Matsuo discloses operating a master switch upon detection results of a card detecting switch wherein if the card is detected then power is on and if the card isn't detected then power is off (e.g., column 4, lines 53-63). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have added Matsuo's master switch and control method to Ejima's invention in order to suspend power upon detecting the opening of the lid and resume power upon detecting the closing of the lid where a memory card is present and thus eliminate power consumption when taking a picture is impossible.

In regards to claim 2 Matsuo discloses the electronic camera as defined in claim , wherein the power supply from the power supply part is suspended and resumed under control of the controller to at least one of the following: all the components supplied with the power from the power supply part except for the detector and the controller; the external storage medium interface; the connector; and the external storage medium. Examiner notes that in order to toggle the master switch upon detecting the lid is closed power is inherently always supplied to the

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detector and the controller, otherwise if power was toggled off then it could never be turned back on since the toggling of power is dependent on the detection of the memory card as disclosed by Matsuo (column 4, lines 53-63).

In regards to claim 11 Ejima et al, herein Ejima, discloses an electronic camera comprising:

- an imaging part for driving an imaging device to capture image data representing an image of a subject (e.g., element 1 of Fig. 4 wherein the claimed imaging part is inherent with all cameras);

- a connector for detachably connecting to an external storage medium (e.g., Figs. 1, 2, and 4-9);

- an external storage medium interface for writing the image data captured by the imaging part into the external storage medium through the connector (e.g., Fig. 2);

- a power supply part for supplying power to components of the camera (e.g., element 72 of Fig. 2);

- a chamber for containing the external storage medium, the connector being disposed in the chamber (e.g., Figs. 4-9);

- a lid for closing the opening of the chamber (e.g., Figs. 4-9);

- a chamber mechanism for discharging the external storage medium from the chamber and receiving the external storage medium into the chamber (e.g., the lid and corresponding mechanisms for opening and closing of the lid depicted in Figs. 4-9);

- a detector for detecting whether the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium, and for detecting an operation relating to detachment of the external storage

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medium while the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium (e.g., element 19 of Figs. 5-9 and described on column 4, lines 18-29 and element 40c of Fig. 2, wherein as shown in Fig. 8 when the limit switch 19 detects that the lid is closed element 40c correspondingly detects that the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium. Further, as described on column 6, lines 1-53 when the limit switch 19 initially detects the opening of the lid the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium);

wherein the operation relating to the detachment of the external storage medium is the opening of a lid (e.g., see Examiners notes above, in particular column 6, lines 1-53 wherein limit switch 19 is used to detect the opening of the lid and thus the detachment of the storage medium).

Ejima does not disclose nor preclude a master switch for turning on and off the power supply part or a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects the operation relating to the detachment of the external storage medium from the connector while the master switch is on, and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium during the suspension of the power supply.

Matsuo discloses a power saving operation of operating a master switch upon detection results of a card detecting switch wherein if the card is detected then power is on and if the card isn't detected then power is off (e.g., column 4, lines 53-63). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have added Matsuo's master switch and control method to Ejima's invention in order to suspend power upon detecting the opening of the lid and resume power upon detecting the closing of the lid where a

memory card is present and thus eliminate power consumption when taking a picture is impossible.

In regards to claim 12 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claims 2 and 11.

In regards to claim 16 Ejima et al, herein Ejima, discloses an electronic camera comprising:

- an imaging part for driving an imaging device to capture image data representing an image of a subject (e.g., element 1 of Fig. 4 wherein the claimed imaging part is inherent with all cameras);

- a connector for detachably connecting to an external storage medium (e.g., Figs. 1, 2, and 4-9);

- an external storage medium interface for writing the image data captured by the imaging part into the external storage medium through the connector (e.g., Fig. 2);

- a power supply part for supplying power to components of the camera (e.g., element 72 of Fig. 2);

- a chamber for containing the external storage medium, the connector being disposed in the chamber (e.g., Figs. 4-9);

- a chamber mechanism for discharging the external storage medium from the chamber and receiving the external storage medium into the chamber (e.g., the lid and corresponding mechanisms for opening and closing of the lid depicted in Figs. 4-9);

- a detector for detecting a first operation relating to detachment of the external storage medium while the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium (e.g., element 19 of Figs. 5-9 as described on column 6, lines 1-53 initially detects the

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opening of the lid the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium), and a second operation relating to attachment of the external storage medium, wherein the detector detects the second operation by detecting an operation of the chamber mechanism (e.g., as shown in Fig. 8 when the limit switch 19 detects that the lid is closed element 40c correspondingly detects that the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium when an external storage medium is present);

wherein the operation relating to the detachment of the external storage medium is the opening of a lid (e.g., see Examiners notes above, in particular column 6, lines 1-53 wherein limit switch 19 is used to detect the opening of the lid and thus the detachment of the storage medium).

Ejima does not disclose nor preclude a master switch for turning on and off the power supply part or a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects the first operation while the master switch is on, and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects the second operation during the suspension of the power supply.

Matsuo discloses a power saving operation of operating a master switch upon detection results of a card detecting switch wherein if the card is detected then power is on and if the card isn't detected then power is off (e.g., column 4, lines 53-63). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have added Matsuo's master switch and control method to Ejima's invention in order to suspend power upon detecting the opening of the lid and resume power upon detecting the closing of the lid where a memory card is present and thus eliminate power consumption when taking a picture is

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impossible. As such, power is resumed when the memory card is detected by both the limit switch 19 regarding the closing of the chamber through a lid and through pin 40c determining that a memory card is electrically connected.

In regards to claim 17 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claims 2 and 16.

Claims 10, 15, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (USPN 5,805,219 to Ejima et al) in view of (USPN 5,179,505 to Matsuo) in further view of (USPN 5,423,045 to Kannan et al).

In regards to claim 10 neither Ejima nor Matsuo disclose nor preclude the electronic camera as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the controller has a timer for measuring elapsed time since the power supply from the power supply part is suspended, and the controller turns off the master switch when the elapsed time reaches a predetermined time while the detector does not detect that the lid is closed.

Kannan discloses, as is very well known and established in the electronic art, a state diagram in Fig. 5 wherein if a camera is in a normal mode it can be switched to a standby state by either a period of inactivity or by performing an event to cause the electronics to go into a standby state. Further Kannan discloses that if the electronics are in a standby state for a predetermined time then the power is fully turned off (column 5, lines 39-53). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention if necessary to have placed the camera in a standby mode when removing the memory card instead of turning off the power in order to realize a quicker startup time and/or conserve power. Further

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it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention if necessary to have added the step of terminating power after a predetermined time in a standby state in order to further conserve power.

In regards to claim 15 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claims 10 and 11.

In regards to claim 20 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claims 10 and 16.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian C. Genco who can be reached by phone at 703-305-7881 or by fax at 703-746-8325. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 7:30am to 4:30 pm and every other Friday 7:30am to 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on 703-308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is 703-308-4357.

Brian C Genco
Examiner
Art Unit 2615

December 10, 2003



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